

Poetry.

For the Mercury.

THE EVICTED.

BY W. K. DELANY.

Original Tale.

For the Mercury.

"CAN YOU CALL THIS A GHOST STORY?"

BY DORRER LEE.

"This is just the night for a Ghost Story," said I to my friend Bernard, as we were sitting before a pleasant fire one evening last week.

Bernard was a chum of mine at college, and a fine fellow he is. Outside our cosy apartment the wind, which had increased in violence since sunset, was rushing in angry tumult round the corner of my antiquated residence, banging the shutters and piping in shrill glee through the key-holes, causing the ruby coals to glow with intense fervor, and ourselves to draw within closer range of the welcome heat.

"A Ghost Story," said Bernard, as he refilled his pipe for the sixth time. He was very fond of a pipe. An old clay bowl attached to a twisted stem, he dearly prized, and the curved wood having circumnavigated his 'ambrosial' locks, flew off in a tangent towards some unlucky individual, wrenching its vapory columns in close proximity to his nose, placed, as he fondly imagined, far away from the noxious weed.

As for myself, that I should have to write it, I cannot smoke a pipe. Nature, generally propitious, has given the desire without the means to accomplish; in other words, it makes me deathly sick. Many a time I have taken a cigar or bowl of Killikinick, and bravely accomplished the whole of its contents, secretly congratulating myself upon my success, when the sudden chill, the dizzy brain, the nauseating stomach, have forced me to beat a retreat, and in the solitude of my chamber mentally vow 'never again to touch a cigar.'

But with relief comes hope, and forgetful of consequences, some friend with kindly intent proffers the tempting roll, and solely for the sake of companionship, for truly, smoking is a great bond of union between friends, I accept and pass through the same ordeal. Whether in process of time I shall be able to take my place among the army of smokers none can tell.

But by this time Bernard has lighted his pipe, and is settling himself in his easy chair, to continue the thread of his wise remarks, so abruptly snapped by my digression.

"A Ghost Story," said he, "yes I know, and although it may not follow the established rules, or tread in the well beaten tracks of every ghost that has not yet been laid, is nevertheless true and indisputable."

Here I laughed to myself rather than satirically, 'You may laugh,' said Bernard, 'but the event of my life, though explained from natural causes, to some does not thoroughly convince me; and has often been the subject of conversations between my friends and myself.'

"Well," answered I, his earnest manner rousing my curiosity. Let me hear it, for tales of the marvellous always please.

"If the dark tales of Romance did your bosom e'er entrance, or render perpendicular your hair; Just lend me your auriculars, and for these sad particulars Your cambric pocket handkerchiefs prepare."

And while you are arranging your facts and deciding what shall be enlarged and what pruned down to strict truth, I will put on more coal, and see what I can find in my corner cupboard."

"You remember then," said Bernard, after we graduated at Brown I passed a year at the Medical College in Edinburgh, and suddenly started for the Continent, without sending word to any one of my intention."

"Yes," I replied, "and nothing astonished us more than the letters from your friends at the College, announcing the fact that you had suddenly left for parts unknown."

"That Summer," continued Bernard, "I passed with my friend Arthur Stone, at the Homestead Stonehurst, as it was called, a well preserved substantial mansion, for many years in the family, and situated at the extremity of a desolate moor in the North of Scotland."

The entrance to the courtyard from the moor was a long narrow lane, allowing vehicles to pass each other only in one spot, and therefore should two dog-carts turn into the lane from opposite directions, the one reaching first the broad opening, by courtesy remained there until the other had passed.

This narrow path, which lost the level and stony character of the plain behind it, was bordered on each side by an impenetrable hedge of Blackthorn, and extended for about a mile in its arrowy straightness to the borders of a small lake, the banks rich with verdure, and in striking contrast to the desolation at such a short distance.

From the upper window of the house we could plainly see the lights of the town of Mallow, some five miles away, and often, as Arthur and myself were returning at dusk towards home, we would see the friendly twinkle of the lamp in the far distance that Mrs. Stone had placed in the

window for our guidance across the treacherous and bewildering plain.

One evening in autumn, we were slowly cantering across the moor, when Arthur suddenly complained of giddiness, and we halted for a moment to rest. As the attack seemed to pass off in an instant, we walked our horses carefully side by side, and I recalled afterwards to my mind that Arthur's face was flushed, and had I not been his constant companion through the entire day, I should have certainly supposed that he had been drinking.

"Are you sure you were in a condition to determine that fact yourself?" I quickly asked.

"Indeed I certainly was," answered Bernard, with so much earnestness that I was silent, and he resumed his story.

Scarcely had we turned our horses heads down the lane, when a sudden gust of wind swept up the narrow path, bringing with it clouds of dust that blinded us, and almost snatched from our heads the slight protection of a Glengarry.

As the dust subsided, I noticed Arthur sitting erect in his saddle, wildly staring down the lane, and at the same moment a chill autumnal blast of more piercing keenness than the preceding came with full sweep upon us, and my poor beast suddenly trembled violently, and then remained rooted to the earth.

I patted the frightened animal, and turned to notice the effect of the blast upon my friend's fine mare, when she suddenly darted by me.

Strange vigor was imparted to my trembling steed, and gathering himself for a sudden leap that almost threw me from the saddle, darted furiously after his companion.

As Arthur neared a large tree, said to be half way between the moor and Stonehurst, the mare slackened her pace, and I gained rapidly upon her, when, what was my horror, to find seated behind my friend, a dark, shaggy object, tightly grasping him round the waist.

I involuntarily started in my saddle and I felt as if I had suddenly been plunged into an ice cold bath paralyzing all my faculties.

Arthur was breathing hard but he did not turn towards me, and still remained staring down the lane. I was now abreast of him, and raising my riding whip, brought it with all my strength on the shoulders of the imp, which was at least in earthly guise, for turning towards me with a fierce yell, leaped from the saddle, and was lost in the fast gathering darkness.

The creature on which I was riding, frightened by my gesture, or possessed by a devil, as it occurred to me at the time, seemed gifted with wings, and sprang forward into the blackness that had rapidly fallen on us, at the decline of the long twilight, common in such Northern latitudes.

In vain I strove to check our impetuous course; we dashed wildly along, the cold wind blowing fiercely in my face, and at every mad leap expecting to be hurled into eternity, when I heard the clatter of hoofs behind me. How we tore along the level road that terrible night. Hedgerow black trees bending in the increasing gale, with frightful nodes of welcome, as with lightning rapidity we neared the old stone gateway that opened into the Court yard.

The gate was generally shut at nightfall and if closed, I dared not think of our peril. I therefore endeavored to check my headlong course, and partly succeeded in restraining my maddened steed, who may have instinctively known our danger, and Arthur's mare flew past me, riderless.

One afternoon, Arthur who had been restless all the morning was confined with a severe headache to the parlor sofa. The sky had been overcast all the afternoon and the short Winter's day was soon ended. He made us light the lamps very early for the dull soothng of the wind in the dark pine trees outside cast a weird and eerie feeling over us all.

The twilight always at Stonehurst seemed gloomy to me. The bleak moor in the distance looked bare and desolate, under the owlish hue of twilight and the quiet little pond on the other side assumed a more sombre cast.

The doors also creaked with a fandish sound, and often when I lay in my bed in a distant portion of the house, I have heard the door bang in the quiet stillness with startling echoes.

When we reached poor Arthur life must have been extinct. A severe blow on the head was the apparent cause, so said the doctors, and death instantly ensued. We found the same afternoon that Arthur and his brother's groom, had met a second messenger, with the tidings of John's partial return to consciousness and anxious to relieve the suspense of his mother and sister, returned toward Stonehurst.

Probably, as we supposed, the sudden shock at sight of the old tree, had brought back to his recollection the terrible words, so long brooded over, and tailing in a fainting condition from his spirited animal.

I listened, and the sound of the hoofs which I had heard distinctly crumpling the frozen gravel under my window, were fast retreating in the distance. At last they grew fainter and fainter, and finally were brought to me only on the fitful gusts of wind.

Wondering who could be braving the tempest on such a night—for I had heard certainly the uneven tramp of two animals—I was about to open my door, to find if sudden sickness had been the cause of the unusual excitement.

Scarcely had I laid my half-folded letter on the table, when a slight tap at my door arrested my attention, and quickly opening it, found myself face to face with Miss Stone.

"What shall I do, Arthur has just gone to town and this is the night;" and she gazed into my face, with a most agonized expression.

He is not strong enough to ride, I said, why did you let him go?

"I did not know it," she answered. "After you left as I persuaded Arthur to take

but without success, and I feared that he was lost to us on earth.

But as we neared the termination of the lane Arthur opened his eyes, and gazed at me a moment, then Mrs. Stone, who had not before lost her self-command, gave a low moan, and the pent up tears came to her relief.

For many days afterwards Arthur lay in a precarious situation; his mother was his only nurse, for she would allow no one else the place by his bedside, but watched with him day and night, until we all feared that Nature would break under the restraint imposed by the iron-will contained in the fragile body, for Mrs. Stone was a small and delicately featured woman.

However, Arthur recovered slowly, and it was not until he was fairly convalescent, that I dared to recur to the event of that frightful ride, when he begged me never again to refer to it, and earnestly entreated his mother and sister to do so likewise.

We of course promised as the sick man desired, and it was not many days before I discovered the secret of the horror which possessed Arthur, whenever anything tended to recall the events of the night.

I had not intended to remain at Stonehurst for such a length of time as I did, but Arthur desired me so earnestly to stay with them a few weeks longer, and he was so warmly seconded by Mrs. Stone and her daughter, that I consented.

Most probably 'the daughter' was the greater attraction, interrupted I, for I knew Bernard's falling ever since he wrote sonnets, and walked with the pretty Miss B——— in Westminster street, when we were chums at Brown.

"Yes," answered he, "I confess I was always pleased with one so womanly as Miss Stone, and I do not know to what foolishness I might have been led into, had we not been interrupted in our quiet life by the sequel to an event, as startling as it was true.

It was nearly three months since Arthur's accident, and he had been able for some weeks to go around the house, and even take an occasional ride around the farm.

Strangely however, his whole disposition seemed changed, and he would wander about with a gloomy sadness, that his sister only seemed partly to dispel, and often I longed to ask him if the strange events of nearly three months before had been so indelibly stamped on his brain as to leave their gloomy impress.

I had discovered that a strange animal probably belonging to some itinerant exhibitor of curiosities, had been found on the moor, and I eagerly grasped at the resemblance between the description in the county newspaper and Arthur's strange companion.

I mentioned my belief to him, and I rejoiced for a few days to see him recover his accustomed spirits, but they quickly subsided, and left him still more gloomy.

At length the secret of his inquietude was revealed to me, and even now when I repeat it to you, the scene is as harrowing and terrible as when five years ago I was so indelibly stamped on his brain as to leave their gloomy impress.

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The graveyard was in a bleak and barren spot on the Moor, near the town boundaries, and the cutting flakes beat in our faces, as we stood by the frozen and gaping earth.

When the coffin had been lowered into its cold resting place and the dull sound of the crumbling particles resounded on the hollow lid, Miss Stone, who remained on one side of me, gave a convulsive start and sank to the ground.

Feeling the inert weight on my arm, I turned to Mrs. Stone, who had not shed a tear but was convulsively grasping the corners of her mourning veil, with agonized intensity, and quickly removing the light covering from her daughter, the handkerchief passed to her lips we found saturated with blood.

"Forgotten, what night it is," said I, for a feeling of uneasiness came over me.

"Why did he not tell you? It has been on his mind for the last three months."

Then it flashed across my brain that perhaps the Coffin had been lowered into its cold resting place and the dull sound of the crumbling particles resounded on the hollow lid, Miss Stone, who remained on one side of me, gave a convulsive start and sank to the ground.

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"Poor girl," resumed Bernard, after a moment's pause, she never recovered her former health. Mrs. Stone tried the effects of a warmer climate. We passed the remainder of the winter in the South of France, but she gradually faded with the waning summer, and before the anniversary of Arthur's death we again stood in the desolate churchyard.

Neither of us spoke for some moments, at this conclusion, and Bernard shading his eyes from me gazed earnestly into the fire.

"His mother," at last asked I, "what became of her?"

"She is still in the old house on the moor, I believe," said he. "I called to see her before I left the country and found her the same calm, quiet, little woman as before and only when I bent to kiss her good bye, did she seem agitated at the remembrance that leaped behind him.

I told him his fancies were foolish and puerile, that his mind, for he raved constantly you know, during his sickness had already commenced to wander.

But he replied that he remembered the mad ride and every tree and hedgerow until he reached the half way tree, and there all was a blank.

Our Book Table.

General Assembly.

JANUARY SESSION—AT PROVIDENCE.
MONDAY, Feb. 29.

Senate.—No quorum present. Adjourned.

House.—Mr. Tilley of Newport, presented the petition of citizens of the Fifth Ward, Newport, for repeal of the license law, which was referred to the special committee on the subject.

Mr. Shefield of Newport, called up the bill to enable State Banks to close up for the purpose of organizing as National Banks, and sundry verbal amendments were made by consent.

After debate the bill was assigned for further consideration on Thursday.

Adjourned.

TUESDAY, March 1.

Senate.—Petition from Alfred Frost, praying to be released from State prison on grounds of ill health, was read, and a resolution was passed ordering his release on the 5th instant.

Petition of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company for amendment of charter, was in concurrence, with an amendment requiring the payment of \$100.

The bill of the Woonsocket Guards for use of Army, was passed in concurrence.

Mr. Stevens of Newport, presented the petition of Charles H. Seaton and wife for authority to release dower, which was read and referred to the judiciary committee.

Resolution for the payment of sundry accounts against the State (from the House) was read and passed in concurrence.

Resolution to pay the bill of Pikey Miller for making the streets in front of the Court House, was passed.

A resolution from the House to pay the account of Eliza R. Potter and others, from the House, was passed in concurrence.

An act dividing the town of North Providence into three voting districts, was passed.

An act to provide for paying certain drafted men certain bounties and commutations, and to pay for substitutes for drafted men, which had been the special order of the day, was called up from the table. A considerable debate was elicited by this bill, but it finally passed providing for the payment of three hundred dollars to each drafted man who went into the service; to each drafted man who furnished an acceptable substitute, the sum that he paid for such substitute, not exceeding three hundred dollars; and to each drafted man who commuted the three hundred dollars paid for such commutation. The payment to the two classes last named is conditioned upon a surrender of the exemption from liability to military service that was secured by such substitution or commutation. The act calls for \$334,500 from the State Treasury. Adjourned.

Mr. J. M. Shefield presented the petition of Charles H. Seaton and others of the city of Newport, for the repeal of the license law, which was referred to the joint special committee.

It is now at this time nearly 75,000.

Of the former number, at least one-third already so efficient in all military duties that can safely be employed in offensive operations. The remaining forty thousand are profiting enough to be used for garrisoning towns & fortifications, guarding depots, protecting lines of communication, &c. As they fill the need of an equal number of white troops, and shall be required for the same services, they can be regarded as a corresponding and effective strength. Now, as to the invalids.

The Great Eastern has been sold at auction to the newly-formed Great Eastern Steamship Company, for twenty five thousand pounds sterling. The Company had, however, previously purchased bonds of the old Company to the extent of seventy thousand pounds sterling, which must be added to the above purchase money.

The Washington National Monument Society has just shown signs of vitality by the re-election of its old officers, including Lieut. Gen. Winfield Scott as one of the Vice Presidents.

The work upon the monument was suspended several years ago.

A considerable number of Austrian naval officers have asked to follow Maximilian I. to Mexico, and have been accepted. The new emperor, it is said, dreams of nothing else than that of creating a powerful navy in the Gulf of Mexico, as the sure means of creating that famous barrier against the aggressions of the Anglo-American race. As Grand Admiral of the Austrian Navy, the Archduke also endeavored to obtain appropriations for the construction of a more respectable navy than that now possessed by Austria, but in that country everything is sacrificed to the army, and the Duke's demands were never listened to. As Emperor of Mexico he will have the power in his own hands, and he hopes by building up a navy to stimulate the pride and the ambition of the nation, and thus while adding to his own popularity by adding to the strength of the country. But where is the money to come from?

GEN. McCLELLAN REFUSES THE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION.—The New York Herald says: "In a conversation with us some time ago the General (McClellan) stated his views very emphatically," said he, "I do not want to be President. I do not desire to be President. I have no ambition to be President. I am too young to be President. If I were elected President my term of office would soon be over, and then I should be an ex-President while still a young man. And what an ex-President is, and how he is presented from doing anything effective, you know as well as I do. No, my desire, my ambition, is to be restored to my former position in the army, so that I may help to save my country, and, if necessary, to save my life."

RESUME OF OUR ARMED.—The figures here are derived from official sources.

According to the official report of the Provost Marshal General to Congress, 65,243 volunteers listed in the army from the 1st of January to the 1st of November, 1863. The draft, during same period, realized 36,000 men. A total of 105,000 men were added to the army in the ten months mentioned. Our losses in this time, by battle, disease, and other causes, did not exceed that number; so that our army was substantially the same as on preceding first of January. Since the first of November up to last Monday, between 110,000 and 115,000 volunteers, under the President's call, have formally been mustered into the United States service. About 10,000 more are listed, but as they are not yet formally mustered, I do not include them in my calculations. Thus, our army is at this moment 112,000, stronger than it was on the 1st of January, nearly fourteen months ago. Not for this reason, but for the sake of economy, that we have organized our forces have been reduced to 105,000 enlisted men, and are now kept in regular service, but not yet formed into regiments. Of the former number, at least one-third already so efficient in all military duties that can safely be employed in offensive operations. The remaining forty thousand are profiting enough to be used for garrisoning towns & fortifications, guarding depots, protecting lines of communication, &c. As they fill the need of an equal number of white troops, and shall be required for the same services, they can be regarded as a corresponding and effective strength. Now, as to the invalids.

The claim of Nathan Darling for subsistence of recruits, with a resolution directing that the same be paid, was passed.

The act authorizing the Governor to pay to each volunteer a bounty of three hundred dollars and such other sum in bounty, necessity, or transportation as he may deem necessary, the amount placed at his discretion being one hundred thousand dollars, was passed. In the course of debate it was stated that the Governor had received official information that another call would be made upon the State for troops in a very short time.

According to the first official report made to the Legislature the present session, there are about twelve hundred miles of canal in Pennsylvania having no less than seven hundred and fifty locks, and employing in the aggregate about six thousand five hundred boats, the greater portion of which are owned by private individuals.

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The Great Indian Remedy
FOR FEMALES.

Dr. Mattison's Indian Emmenagogue.



This celebrated female medicine has received various unknowns of anything new and original, and has been found to be of great service to all who have failed, in designed expressly for the married and single ladies, and is well known to all who have used it, as well as will bring on the monthly menses, in cases of sterility, from very early, and after marriage, and even in old age, and after many years, with effects as different, as it were, in one case, so MATTER HOWEVER, it will bring on, no MATTER HOW EVER IT IS, and it is also perfectly safe, and will not injure the body, and it will cure two different strengths, with full directions, in the following:

— Full strength \$15. High strength \$15.

N.B.—Suits are used by the weaker, while others may require the stronger, and are to be taken in a stated quantity, on receipt of the price by MAIL. REMEMBER—This medicine is designed especially for the married woman, and is not intended for the single, or for those who are not married, and it is recommended in every respect, for the peace and quietness of the mind, and it is also perfectly safe, and will not injure the body, and it will cure two different strengths, with full directions, in the following:

— PRICES:

TRAVEL.

NEWPORT and PROVIDENCE

Fall Arrangement.

ON and after MONDAY, Oct. 19, 1861, the splendid steamer CITY OF NEWPORT, Capt. N. C. ALLEN, will make but one trip daily, Sundays excepted. Will leave Newport at 8 o'clock a.m., (touching at FORTSMOUTH & WORCESTER,) arriving in Providence in time to connect with mid-day trains for BOSTON, WORCESTER, SPRINGFIELD, ALBANY, and the WEST.

Arriving, will leave Providence at 2 o'clock p.m., or on arrival of mid-day trains from Boston, Worcester, etc. FARES:

Newport to FORTSMOUTH GROVE, 25c.
Portsmouth Grove to Providence, 50c.
Newport to Providence, 50c.
" " Boston, \$2.00.
" " Worcester, \$2.00.
Children over 4 years and under 12 half price.

NOTICE.

SISAMER
MONTPELIER.

After Saturday, Dec. 4th, 1861, the steamer Montpelier will be temporarily taken from the route between Newport and Providence, to alterations and improvements, preparatory to a resumption of her trips, of which due notice will be given to the public.

INSURANCE.

THE FARMERS'

Mutual Fire Insurance Company,

AT EAST GREENWICH, R. I.,

CONTINUE to insure, in the First Class, farm buildings and other buildings on the country most hazardous stock, hay, grain, &c., containing household furniture, wearing apparel, piano forte, &c., in good well dwelling houses.

Farmers and others having such property, will find it to their interest to insure in this class, being the only company in this State, that take this class of property exclusively. This class has never made an assessment, but has accumulated a handsome surplus.

JAMES H. ELDREDGE, President.

A. A. REYNOLDS, Secretary.

OLIVER POTTER, Agent for Newport, East Greenwich, Feb. 6, 1861—43.

Send to Dyer in a small package, care of our Observers, on receipt of the price by mail.

ALTERATIVE, SYRUP.

For Gonorrhoea, Gleet, Strictures, and all diseases of the Urinary Organs.

THIS new remedy contains neither Sulphur nor Tartaric acid, but is an elegant vegetable liquid, pleasant to the taste, and most grateful to the stomach, causing no irritation, and is equally efficacious in removing the disease, and irritation in the urinary organs. You, therefore, who have been suffering down HAZARD CAPTAIN, either in vapors, or in water, will find this a safe and certain remedy, and consider your health restored.

It is also a safe and certain remedy for the cure of gonorrhoea, and will be recommended to you, as far as possible, to take it.

It will be sold at the price of \$3.00 per bottle, and will be refunded, one bottle often sufficient. Price \$3. Two bottles one sum \$6. Sent by Express on receipt of the price by mail.

NERVE INVIGORATOR.

For Nervous Debility, Neuralgic Weakness, Loss of Power, Impotency, Confusion of Thought, Loss of Memory, Irritable Temper, Glaucomy Apprehensions, Despondency and Melancholy, which may end in Loss of Reason.

This remedy is ready for that fearful train of mortal and physical calamities which are the result of the loss of reason, is composed of the most soothing, strengthening and invigorating medicines to be found in the whole Vegetable Kingdom.

It is also a safe and certain remedy for the cure of epilepsy, and fits the nerves, and removes all

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